

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01

CCO-00 EB-11 FAA-00 /172 W
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O P 081345Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0026

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7861

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. MOOD OF COUNTRY REMAINS CALM BUT SOBER. BUSINESSES ARE OPEN AS USUAL, ALTHOUGH MOBILIZATION HAS LESSENE STAFFS IN SOME STORES. FOOD STORES OPENED EARLY AND HOUSEWIVES TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS TO REPLENISH THEIR PANTRIES. RATIONING IS NOT IN EFFECT, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SHORTAGES OF BASIC COMMODITIES CAUSED BY DISRUPTION OF DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES AND HEAVY PRESS OF EARLY SHOPPERS; HOUSEWIVES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE HOARDING. GASOLINE RATIONING IS NOT IN
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EFFECT.

2. TOTAL BLACKOUT CONTINUES IN IILBEIES IN ISRAEL. AS NIGHTFALL APPROACHED YESTERDAY IN TEL AVIV, ISRAELI SCHOOL CHILDREN

STATIONED THEMSELVES ALONG MAJOR ROADS AND INTERSECTIONS TO PAINT CAR HEADLIGHTS BLUE. BY NIGHTFALL, TEL AVIV WAS LIKE A GHOST TOWN WITH VERY LITTLE TRAFFIC AND FEW PEDESTRIANS ON THE STREETS. ISRALIS WERE VERY WELL DISCIPLINED IN

OBSERVING
BLACKOUT REGULATIONS.

3. LOD AIRPORT REMAINS OFFICIALLY CLOSED TO CIVIL AIATION, BUT SOME CIVILIAN FLIGHTS HAVE ARRIVED AND DEPARTED DURING THE NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING. IT APPEARS THAT MOST CARRIERS WILL HAVE FLIGHTS DEPARTING ISRAEL TODAY AND THIS EVENING.

4. US CITIZENS CONTINUE TO INQUIRE (AT EMBASSY IN PERSON AND BY TELEPHONE) ABOUT SITUATION, BUT NUMBER IS CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN YESTERDAY. JORDAN RIVER BRIDGES REMAIN OPEN. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI SECURITY SERVICE, POPULATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES REMAINS CALM ALTHOUGH VERY FEW CROSSED THE GREEN LINE TO COME TO WORK. THIS HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF APPREHENSION ON THEIR BEHALF AS WELL AS A LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

5. ISRAELIS TO WHOM EMBOFFS HAVE TALKED HAVE DISPLAYED SOME DISQUIET OVER LACK OF HARD FACTS ON MILITARY SITUATION IN ISRAELI MEDIA. MEDIA HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION AT ALL OF SCALE OF ISRAEL CASUALTIES, AND THIS HAS CAUSED SOME CONCERN AMONG POPULATION. HOWEVER, NEWS BROADCASTS ON ISRAELI RADIO EARLY THIS AFTERNOON DID ADD ADDITIONAL DETAILS RE MILITARY SITUATION IN SINAI AND GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND ISRAEL RADIO MILITARY COMMENTATOR HAIM HERZOG OPENED ON MORE OPTIMISTIC NOTE THAN YESTERDAY IN HIS AFTERNOON BROADCAST. HE STATED THAT ISRAEL HAD NOT YET REACHED DEFINITE TURNING POINT ALTHOUGH THAT POINT WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING. HE STATED THAT INITIATIVE NOW LAY IN ISRAEL'S HANDS ON BOTH FRONTS AND THAT EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN FORCES WERE NOW ON THE DEFENSE. REGARDING JORDAN, HERZOG SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS KEEPING WATCHFUL EYE ON
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KING HUSSEIN AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT JORDAN WOULD STAY OUT OF THE FRAY.
KEATING

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